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* EGYPT: The expected government reshuffle could well be accompanied by heightened rhetorical militancy and further gestures toward increased military preparedness.

The Egyptian press this weekend described President Sadat's scheduled meeting with the nation's legislature and party today as being of "major importance" and marking a turning point in Egypt's politics. A statement on his discussions will be broadcast later today. Both domestic and foreign policy changes are anticipated, and a major cabinet change seems likely.

Ihsan Abdul Quddus, a leading Egyptian editor who sometimes reflects Sadat's views, on Saturday discussed Egypt's advancement to a "new stage" and called for imposing the "pressure of a new status quo" on the US. Quddus accused the US of wanting to prolong Middle East peace discussions and charged that the present Egyptian-US dialogue was "nonsensical." He said that a "change" in the present state of peace must take place.

Egyptian officials are clearly incensed over speculation about promises of further US fighter aircraft for Israel. These reports are particularly irritating to Cairo because they provide ammunition to Arab critics of Egypt's recent diplomatic efforts, particularly those directed at the US. This mood is likely to manifest itself in harsher words of war and further criticism of the US and its support for Israel. A greater show of preparing the nation for "the battle" may also be made in hopes of focusing world attention on the need for a settlement in the Middle East.

[REDACTED]

*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

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TURKEY: The nearly two-week-old crisis over the presidency worsened Sunday when the Senate failed to approve a constitutional amendment to prolong President Cevdet Sunay's term.

The proposed amendment, which would have enabled Sunay to serve until March 1975, fell 19 votes short of the two-thirds majority required for approval in the Senate. Although the amendment had been declared dead after being turned down by one vote in the Assembly Thursday, legislators found a way to send it to the Senate, where they hoped the Sunay extension formula could be revived.

The defeat of the effort to prolong Sunay's term for two years means that parliament will probably resume voting for a president today. Eight inconclusive ballots have already been taken. If no successor has been elected by 28 March--when Sunay's seven-year term expires--the presiding officer of the Senate, Tekin Ariburun, will be acting president. Ariburun was the Justice Party's presidential candidate in the balloting that began on 13 March. He held a substantial lead over Faruk Gurler, the military's candidate, in the early voting. Both withdrew from the deadlocked race when the Sunay extension proposal looked like it had widespread parliamentary support.

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PAKISTAN: Chances for any consensus on the proposed constitution have further diminished in the wake of violence at an opposition rally in Rawalpindi on 23 March.

The government says nine people were killed when shooting broke out between pro- and anti-government elements.

[redacted] government officials took half-hearted measures to prevent trouble, in view of the fact that violence was anticipated.

The incident indicates that President Bhutto is willing to use force to intimidate or discredit his opponents and is becoming less and less inclined to make any concessions on the constitution. The opposition, for its part, shows no signs of giving in. It plans to boycott the constitutional debate in the National Assembly--where the government has an overwhelming majority--and to portray the Rawalpindi incident as a further step toward dictatorship.

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TERRORISM: West European governments are again discussing collective action against terrorism, but progress to date has been limited.

At a recent meeting of EC foreign ministers, only the Belgian and German ministers spoke favorably of taking firm concerted action, such as demarches with Arab governments or increased internal security measures. The ministers of other states not yet directly affected by terrorism seemed reluctant to concur in any steps that might make them future targets.

The foreign ministers did decide to reactivate two working groups established after the Munich incident last September to investigate ways of countering terrorism in Europe. The working groups met briefly in the fall, but accomplished little. EC members and some non-member European states have, however, begun exchanging information on terrorist activities.

At US initiative, the North Atlantic Council will meet on 4 April to consider ways to discourage Arab governments from supporting terrorist groups and to discuss the efforts to draft anti-terrorist conventions in the UN. Many NATO members, however, are reluctant to do anything, fearing that coordinated diplomatic representations could make matters worse.

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